



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

ISSUE 7 OCTOBER 2015

# EU UNIT UPDATE



## WHATS INSIDE...

- ▶ **EU Unit News**.....2
- ▶ **Funding and Projects**.....4
- ▶ **Networks and Collaboration**..... 11
- ▶ **Policy Work**..... 13
- ▶ **North West Updates**..... 14

## WELCOME / FAILTE

This bulletin is produced by the EU Funding and Strategic Policy Unit of Donegal County Council. The EU Unit works with all services of Donegal County Council to proactively target external funding opportunities, influence policy and identify EU networks of benefit to the Council. The Strategic Policy Unit promotes and support inter-agency networking and partnership across the wider north west region through a range of collaborative structures and projects. This bulletin will provide you with all the latest news in relation to Donegal County Councils involvement in this important area of work.

**Seamus Neely, Chief Executive Donegal County Council**



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



Programme co-funded by the  
EUROPEAN UNION

## LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

July 2015 saw Donegal County Council host 33 international delegates from 11 Countries. The delegates visited Donegal as part of the LADDER project and took part in a three-day EU level training course on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR). There are three EU level trainings in total, Donegal and Croatia hosted in July, the third will take place in Greece in early November. The training was delivered by The Hague Academy for Local Governance from the Netherlands who are also a partner of LADDER. Donegal County Council's, Social Inclusion Unit are leading out on the LADDER project which aims to change attitudes and improve public understanding of issues and difficulties facing developing countries tackling global poverty, promoting justice, human rights, and sustainable ways of living. Donegal County Council staff participated in the training which aims to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and civil society

organisations to act in a sustainable way as drivers for development. The second Steering Committee will be held online in September. At present all Category A partners, of which Donegal County Council is part, are preparing to develop and host their National Level trainings towards the end of 2015 with Local Level trainings to take place in first half of 2016. For further information contact Christina O'Donnell [codonnell@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:codonnell@donegalcoco.ie)



Nikos Gamouras ALDA, Letterkenny Mayor  
Gerry McMonagle, Anne-Laure Joedicke ALDA, Cathaoirleach Ciaran Brogan and Marco Boaria ALDA at welcome reception for LADDER international delegates at Glenveagh Castle



Letterkenny Municipal District Mayor Gerry Mc Monagle, Donegal County Council Chief Executive Seamus Neely, Director of Service Micheal Heaney, Hague Academy Trainers and ALDA staff with Donegal County Council Staff who participated in the EU Development Education and Awareness Raising training

## COSME

Programme for the  
Competitiveness of  
Enterprises and SMEs  
2014-2020

The project, HikingEurope was successfully submitted to the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises' (EASME) COSME second call for "Supporting Competitive and Sustainable Growth in the Tourism Sector" under theme 2, "Diversifying the EU tourism offer and products - Promoting transnational thematic tourism products" on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Donegal County Council were invited by the Spanish Catalan Tourist Board to join their consortium of partners who are located in Spain, Italy, Croatia, Germany and Austria. HikingEurope, if successful, will look to tackle the issue of tourism diversification in European regions that have traditionally focused and benefitted from mass tourism but are willing to commit to a more sustainable, responsible and high-quality alternative based in less explored European areas, specifically in inland/rural locations.

The project will place a focus on hiking activities considered as a unique way to unveil the local heritage in a sustainable manner, while contributing to physical activity and thus to a better health and quality of life of citizens. A result from the Commission is expected in late November 2015. For Further information contact: EU Unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900



### Stage 1 Project TIDAL concept bid to the North West Europe Interreg VB Programme.

Donegal County Council led a Stage 1 concept project bid to the North West Europe Interreg VB funding programme. This transnational financing programme seeks to encourage public, scientific, private and civil society organisations to cooperate with a view to improving the economic, environmental, territorial and social development of Europe's regions. The region covers Ireland, UK, regions of France, Belgium Netherlands and Germany and is one of the European Unions programmes that finances large scale capital projects. The project is titled – TIDAL and is an acronym for Technology Innovation Demonstration and Learning and

involved a transnational consortium from Ireland, UK, France and Belgium.

In July 2015 Donegal County Council as the lead project partner were informed that project TIDAL had successfully passed the stage one concept and were invited to submit a 2<sup>nd</sup> bid to the more detailed stage of the process in December 2015. Work has recently commenced on this bid with Donegal County Council and LYIT playing host to the first partner meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The meeting was attended by all partners including the NWE programme project officer. The two day meeting was detailed and with the programme project officer in attendance it was the forum to discuss all detailed matters relating to the project. The detail of the project and the content of the stage 2 project are still under discussion and a decision taken on the most appropriate course for the consortium. The Stage 2 call officially opens in October 2015 and close on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015. For further information contact: EU unit Donegal County Council Tel : 074 9153900

## PROJECT TIDAL Workshop in Lille 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September

Donegal County Council as lead partner on project TIDAL was invited to attend a workshop hosted by the North West Europe Programme in Lille, France on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September. This event provided all applicants who were successful at the Stage 1 of the application process with an opportunity to meet with the Programme secretariat and other project promoters. The workshop provided information to project leads on the next phase of the application process and the programme team were on hand to advise on the stage 1 project feedback provided by the monitoring committee.

The stage 2 bid opens in October 2015 and closes by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The project bid is being lead by Donegal County Council with full partner commitment and input from Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Other project partners are from France Belgium and private industrial partners. The first full Tidal Partner meeting took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September in LYIT, Donegal and also attended by the project officer from North West Europe. Donegal County Council are now exploring the stage 2 requirements and the timeline for completion of the project by December 2015.

## Transnational Interreg VB Project: HERICOAST

Donegal County Council are a partner in a project application entitled 'HERICOAST' which is an acronym for 'Management of Heritage in Coastal Landscapes'. The application was submitted to Interreg Europe which is a transnational Interreg VB European Regional Development fund programme, in July 2015 by the lead partner, Vest-Agder County Council, Norway. The project aims to improve regional policies for heritage management in maritime and fluvial regions across the 8 partners comprised of county and regional authorities from France, Spain, Italy, Romania, Lithuania; Clue University Amsterdam and Civilscape landscape forum Europe are advisory partners. In Donegal



the project will focus on a range of coastal settlements and their unique and valuable maritime heritage and aim to improve the existing policy instruments in place and thereby revitalize coastal communities. In the context of the wider project, Donegal will contribute to, and be informed by the wider shared experience

across the partner regions within their coastal landscapes. Claire Mc Callan, Conservation Architect and Alana Green, Executive Planner from the Central Planning Unit have worked closely with the EU Unit and Vest-Agder County Council, Norway to formalize the application. A decision on the application will be made by the Monitoring Committee of Interreg Europe in Luxembourg in early December 2015. For further information contact EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

## SCALE Project Steering meeting, Brussels June 2015

In June, the EU Unit and Social Inclusion Unit staff travelled to Brussels to attend a two day project steering meeting of potential partners for a project titled "SCALE - SCaling up Assisted Living in Europe". This project has emerged from the members of the CORAL Network which is a European network of regions collaborating in the field of Ambient Assisted Living and Active and Healthy Ageing. Project SCALE aims to identify innovative solutions

and create effective ecosystems for Active and Healthy Living by building on partners' experiences, via mutual learning /knowledge transfer events and sharing of good practices in order to identify common approaches that can support policy goals. The meetings in Brussels were very informative and Donegal County Council submitted its application, along with 24 other partners, as part of the overall project proposal to Interreg Europe on the

31<sup>st</sup> of July. If successful, this five year project will commence in 2016 and will link with the Donegal Age Friendly Strategy which was launched by Daniel O'Donnell on May 22nd of this year.

For further information contact: EU Unit Donegal County Council, 074 9153900.



## WILDSEA Europe

The EASME EU funded *WILDSEA Europe* project was launched in July 2015 in Barcelona and is led by lead partners Travelecoology from Spain. Mr. Garry Martin from Donegal County Council was in attendance at the launch and has joined the project Steering Committee.

The project seeks to develop a touring route based on the wonderful variety of marine biodiversity and wildlife along our European coastlines, while at the same time looking at methods of conservation of our marine biodiversity and protection for future generations. The project includes elements of research and conservation in addition to the marketing and promotion of an EU wide marine wildlife and biodiversity trail called WILDSEA Europe. Donegal County Council will have a number

of key responsibilities in the project including communication, marketing, video production and much more. Malin Head has been chosen as a key pilot area for the WILDSEA Europe project due to its rich wildlife and biodiversity, including the basking shark and dolphin population.

Donegal County Council was pleased to host the recent meeting of the WILDSEA Europe delegation. Partners from all over Europe came to Donegal from the 7th to the 9th of October. The project partners also attended the Donegal County Council Wild Atlantic Way Tourism Conference which took place on October 9th. Check out #wildseaeurope on Twitter for more details, a website and Facebook page will be launched soon.



## FUNDING AND PROJECTS



The Cool Route project continues to develop following the successful bid for INTEREG VB funding under the Northern Periphery & Arctic programme 2014-2020 by lead partner Cork Institute of Technology. Project partners include Glasgow Caledonian University, Royal Cork Yacht Club, Derry City Council, Port Authority Torshavn Faroe Islands, Blue Seas Marinas Scotland, Western Norway Research

Institute and associated partners Donegal Tourism, the Irish Cruising Club and Sail Scotland.

Cool Route partners are delighted to welcome Údarás na Gaeltachta who have recently joined the Cool Route project as an associate partner. Udaras na Gaeltachta will be hosting a meeting at their offices in Cork this September where CIT will present the Cool Route project to County Council Directors of Service from all along the West Coast of Ireland. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss the project in detail and to look at potential ways to maximise the positive impact on sailing along our joined west coast.

Donegal County Council is a project partner on the Cool Route project and has responsibility for the communications and product dissemination element of the project. A new project website has been launched and can be found on [www.sailcoolroute.eu](http://www.sailcoolroute.eu) Social media channels

are consistently growing on Facebook and Twitter @eucoolroute.

Donegal County Council will host the next meeting of project partners in Donegal in late October and we look forward to welcoming delegates to the County, an excellent opportunity to showcase our marine tourism offering to visitors from the various European partner regions such as Norway, Faroe Islands, Scotland etc. The visit to Donegal will take place over two days including extensive meetings and a tour of our sailing locations.

The project merges all aspects of the practical logistics and business potential to establish a bi-directional yacht cruising route along the offshore areas of the Northern Periphery Area, stretching from the South of Ireland, to the UK (Northern Ireland and Western Scotland) on onwards to Norway. For more information please contact Eu unit : 07491 53900



## CLEAN- Technologies and open innovation for low carbon regions

The common challenge addressed by the CLEAN project is how best to meet EU low carbon targets in Europe's regions, focusing on how to decrease energy consumption in existing buildings. Buildings are responsible for 40% of energy consumption in the EU and consume between 8 and 12 times as much heating oil as new

ones. The overall objective is to work together between 2016–2020 to improve the energy performance of the built environment by 4% in the project regions. The expected changes will be better performance in 7 policy measures that address low carbon. This will be as a result of greater focus in policy instruments on: 1) Better design of services and products in the regional energy efficiency market; 2) Improved promotion of the products and services to building occupiers. This will benefit all stakeholders in a region's energy value chain, i.e., consumers of energy services, suppliers of energy products and services, centres of energy expertise (including innovation) and public authorities (promoters of energy efficiency). CLEAN proposal was submitted by ERNACT to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Interreg Europe Programme. Decisions are expected in December 2015.



### (Involving The Community To Co- Produce Public Services)

This is a project led by ERNACT and with the participation of Donegal County Council and Derry and Strabane County Council and which was approved in the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme. With a total budget of €1.5 million and €560,000 specifically ring fenced to benefit the North West region, IMPROVE aims to increase the level of innovation in the six partner regions in the field of technology-driven public service solutions. It adapts a novel living labs-driven approach to maximise knowledge transfer between regions and stakeholders.

Real communities will demonstrate the approach by using it to co-produce services, and develop tools and methodologies for use by other regions to implement the results of the project. The project was officially launched with the kick-off meeting celebrated in May 2015 in Letterkenny (Donegal). The main work at the moment is focused in partners documenting and sharing the good practices coming from their regions that will serve as a basis to develop the common methodology that will guide the development of the future public services planned in the project. In order to widespread these good practices the project started in September a series of 9 webinars that will last until October 2015. The launch conference will take place on 10th and 11th November in Bifrost (Iceland).

## Smart Creativity Hubs

This project addresses the challenges created by ongoing advances in production processes, digital technology and new materials on the business and operating models of enterprises in the design-led sectors. This includes enterprises in the fashion and textile sectors and those producing ceramic, wood and artisan food products.

These challenges occur predominantly in peripheral or older manufacturing areas of the NWE that do not have the market size or modern innovation infrastructure needed to overcome them. The project's novel approach will network or cluster distinct strengths



in new technologies, materials and processes from existing organisations across NWE to effect a critical mass of new innovation services for enterprises, regardless of location.

The proposal, submitted by ERNACT has been selected by the North West Europe programme to enter into stage 2 and will be submitted at the end of 2015. Only 19 out of 82 project ideas have been approved to get to stage 2 which is very promising.





## NICHE - BUILDING INNOVATIVE FOOD VALUE CHAINS IN REGIONS

The NICHE project aims to support the food sector as a whole to face its major challenges that arise from changes in the sector's economic

and non-economic environments. The availability of safe, sustainable and healthy food has taken a new and pressing dimension in the light of an ever-growing global population and increasing environmental and sustainability concerns. Technology has already substantially re-shaped the business models, value chains and efficiencies in this sector, but a new wave of driven innovation is needed to give response to this new demand.

A special feature of the food production sector in Europe is that the 99% of the enterprises, generating 50% of the turnover, are SMEs. These current challenges cannot be met by any individual enterprise but require concerted actions and coordination of initiatives.

Aware of the role that innovation may have in giving response to this demanding sector, the NICHE project wish to realize its potential

by effectively promoting policies in 7 European regions where food has been identified as a key sector to apply existing research and innovation strengths.

By working together the NICHE partnership aims, by 2019 and through the improvement of existing policies, achieve an average 15 % increase in the adoption of research and innovation solutions by food sector companies in their regions to give response to the demand of this sector identified as high-potential sector for their smart growth.

NICHE proposal, prepared by ERNACT and with the participation of Donegal County Council and Derry and Strabane District Council as partners, was submitted to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Interreg Europe Programme. Decisions are expected in December 2015.



## Sliabh Liag Project

Excellent progress has been made on elements of the Sliabh Liag project, co-funded through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border programme and the Failte Ireland's Tourism Capital

Investment Programme funded under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

Construction works have been completed to both the access road (Carrick – Ranger Station) and existing par park (Ranger Station). Visitors to Sliabh Liag have been utilising the new extended car parking facilities at the Ranger Station throughout the summer of 2015.

The Visitor Centre / Transportation Hub at Teelin village is programmed for completion in September 2015. The new centre when operational will provide parking, services and other facilities and enable management of visitors accessing the cliffs.

A communication and marketing plan has been developed and implemented, incorporating online advertising, photography and creation of a new Sliabh Liag website [www.sliabhliag.com](http://www.sliabhliag.com).



## Enterprise Europe Network

Enterprise Europe Network is made up of over 600 business support organisations in over 50 countries from both within and beyond Europe. The Network helps small business make the most of European and international markets, facilitates them to explore new opportunities and assists them in accessing both new technologies and funding. Donegal County Council through the Local Enterprise Office is one of four national partners delivering the project in Ireland for the next six years and the Local Enterprise Office will manage both the activities of all 31 Local Enterprise Offices and the budget for these activities over this period. The other project partners are Enterprise Ireland ( Lead), Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber of Commerce. The project is funded under the COSME Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs 2014-2020.

Ms Eileen Kelly, has been appointed coordinator of the project within the Local Enterprise Office and the project was officially launched by Council Chairman, Kieran Brogan on July 21<sup>st</sup> in Letterkenny. The project has an overall budget of €4.78M for the six years with some 55% of the budget dedicated to the Local Enterprise Offices. For further details contact Eileen Kelly at [eilen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie](mailto:eilen.kelly@leo.donegalcoco.ie)



## International SMEs Everywhere Project ( ISEP)

SMEs are much more likely to survive and grow in the current competitive global business environment if they can internationalise. We also know that SMEs that do enter international markets or internationalise are more innovative and more resistant to local and national crisis. The Local Enterprise Office in Donegal County Council is partner to an application submitted under Interreg Europe by HAMPSHIRE County Council, as the lead partner, that involves partners from eight countries across Europe – Ireland, Austria, UK, Denmark, Italy, Czech Republic, Poland and Spain. The project aims to identify good practice in the area of internationalising of SMEs, facilitate each participating region develop robust action plans to assist SMEs internationalise, identify national and regional policy issues and recommend policy and programme changes to enable greater levels of internationalisation to happen. It is hoped that a decision on the application will be made before the end of the year. If the application is successful Donegal Local Enterprise Office as a key role in the project with regard to identifying and codifying best practice within the project and in facilitating the project workshops. For more information contact Local Enterprise Office 0749160735.



## ReNew Project



Renew project looked at the fish waste industry in Donegal and an appraisal was carried out by consultants on behalf of Donegal County Council and Inishowen Development Partnership in 2015. It outlines the scale of Fish Waste in the pelagic, demersal and aquaculture sector in Donegal. An objective of the ReNew project is to deliver innovations for the waste supply chain, promoting recovery of valuable materials from waste.

Information provided by our partner the Technology Centre for Bio-refining and Bio-energy (TCBB) demonstrates that through selective enzymatic processing, collagens for cosmetic applications, gelatins for food applications and bioactive peptides for biopharmaceutical applications can all be recovered. For mature sludge anaerobic digestion with another carbon rich bio mass waste is the best approach. The report highlights the approach taken in Scotland of all stakeholders coming together in planning an integrated solution to fish waste issues. With developments in Killybegs including the planned construction of a state of the art Bio-marine plant there is opportunities in maximising the commercial value of what too now has been considered waste. New discard rules will increase the volume and potential for developing commercially viable alternatives, these could include markets for dried heads and frames of fish in African countries where it is seen as a cheap source of protein. The Renew project ran from 2013 – 2015 with Donegal County Council joining the consortium in early 2014. The project has been valuable to Donegal and to the sector and has assisted in examining a growing market and economy for the region.

For more information please contact the EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900





## Malin Head Development

The Malin Head tourism project was formally opened by Minister McHugh TD on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June. The opening of the new facilities at Malin Head will enhance the visitor experience and boost tourism in the area, creating long-term benefits for the local community. The project works include the building

of passing places, cliff top trails, and a viewing area with telescopes and Information panels that inform visitors of trail conditions. County Mayor Ciaran Brogan believes the partnership model was key to its success. “We know that these projects need the buy in of all stakeholders. This project should serve as a model for other groups looking to build on the critical mass of tourism product in their locality”. This point was supported by Inishowen Mayor, Rena Donaghey who believes “that the community must be involved at all levels in terms of developing actions on the ground”.

In opening the project, Minister McHugh TD said that “Under the banner of the Wild Atlantic Way, Malin Head will benefit from a now internationally recognised brand which has been a resounding success for tourism on the western seaboard”. The Malin Head project is funded through the European Union’s INTERREG IVA programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body and developed in partnership with the Lough Agency. *For further information contact Ciaran Martin - [ciarán.martin@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:ciarán.martin@donegalcoco.ie)*



## CAPITEN 2020 Marine Leisure Project

Following last years visit from Mr Vincent Gonac’h, Donegal County Council will now partner the Regional Council of Brittany in a bid under the Atlantic Area INTERREG VB Programme. As project coordinator, Mr. Gonac’h hopes to build on the successes of the first two NEA projects dedicated to the development of the nautical and marine leisure industry. The new Marine Leisure Project which

aims to encourage job creation and business growth, will work with transnational partners including Irish partners, Limerick County Council and Donegal County Council. Partners from countries such as Great Brittan, France, Spain and Portugal also form part of the consortium. A strategic implementation plan has been circulated to the partners outlining the work packages and key action areas. By September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015, each region will have submitted their plan to undertake numerous local and regional initiatives. These initiatives will compliment and achieve great synergy in what is hoped to be achieved under

the new Marine Leisure Project. This sector is of critical importance to Donegal given the success of the Sailwest and Malin Waters project, and also the extensive coastline and unique marine based resources which the County has to offer. Through our participation in this project, Donegal County Council will develop transnational networks and partnerships of benefit, which will seek to exploit the economic opportunities of the sector, put in place sustainable solutions and promote job creation in our regions. Submission of Stage 1 of the application will take place in late 2015. For further information contact: EU Unit Donegal County Council, 074 9153900.





The MalinWaters brand is growing from strength to strength. Partners have now agreed to formally continue to promote the brand into 2016 by each contributing financially to the marketing activity associated

# MalinWaters<sup>o</sup>

with the Sail West project. This successful consortium of partners will also look towards future EU funding opportunities to continue to build on the success of this EU project that is now funded by partners themselves.

A new development in the project has taken place via a partnership with Marine Blast. The marinas, pontoons and coastal attractions of Donegal have now been listed on the popular Marine Blast app for iPhone. The app previously only featured the UK and Scotland but now lists Donegal and Sligo, plus Northern Ireland as part of the MalinWaters, Sail West project. This app is free to download and is hugely popular with the sailing community.

It will soon be available on Android.

MalinWaters.com website statistics have shown a very positive growth following recent work to update the website to become mobile friendly. Google Analytics statistics have revealed a significant increase in traffic to MalinWaters.com since the new CMS and mobile functionality went live. The website has seen a 210.38% increase in mobile visitors since the website is now mobile friendly.

For further information contact: Joy Harron, Marine Marketing Development Officer Donegal Tourism Ltd [donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com](mailto:donegalmarinetourism@gmail.com)



The Peace III Pettigo/Tullyhommon - Termon Project is now completed. The Project was led by Donegal County Council and partners included, Association for the Development of Pettigo and Tullyhommon (ADoPT) and Fermanagh District Council. Since 2011, the Project activities have regenerated the twin villages of Pettigo and Tullyhommon. Outputs have included creation of a riverside walkway straddling the Donegal – Fermanagh border, streetscape improvements, extension/ refurbishment of the Methodist Hall, development of a purpose built childcare facility and a paint scheme for business and residential properties. At the core of the Project is the Termon Complex which is a state of the art community centre.

The Complex features include a gym, multi purpose hall suitable for a variety of sports, concerts, stage

productions, exhibition space, coffee dock and also meeting/conference rooms. In the adjacent grounds are a multi use games area (MUGA), landscaped gardens and playpark. In addition to the capital aspects of the Project, ADoPT implemented a Community In Action Plan which involved activities and events that have encouraged greater co-operation on a cross border and cross community basis.

The project is an achievement and tangible result of the Interreg cross border collaboration programme and is a long term legacy of which the village and surrounding locality will benefit for years to come. For more details on the Termon Complex and it's activities, events and facilities please visit [termoncomplex.wordpress.com](http://termoncomplex.wordpress.com) or e-mail [termoncomplex@gmail.com](mailto:termoncomplex@gmail.com)

## Centre for Cross Border Studies Workshop for Interreg VA River Restoration Project

Joint management of the environment has been identified as a key economic challenge for the INTERREG VA Programme. On the 31st July 2015, the Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) facilitated a project development workshop focusing on Specific Objective 2.4 aiming to “improve the water quality in cross-border river basins” using the Impact Assessment Toolkit for Cross Border Co-operation.

Within the Programme area, Ireland and Northern Ireland share 11 cross-border river basins. A greater level of cross-border collaboration between both jurisdictions is needed in order to improve freshwater quality and contribute to compliance with the Water Framework Directive requirements.

Led by the Environment section of Donegal County Council in

partnership with AFBI (Agri Food and Bio Sciences Institute), University of Ulster, Blackwater catchment, Geological Survey Northern Ireland and Loughs Agency are developing a river restoration / catchment management project under this call.

The proposed INTERREG VA River Restoration project will address the problem of how to restore or maintain good (or high) status on a catchment specific basis in three cross-border catchment (e.g. Blackwater, Melvin and Finn) taking into consideration both surface and groundwater. This specific call opens on the 7th of October with a closing date of early January 2016. For further information please contact Roisin McBride at – [rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie)

## ‘Trail Gazers Project’

The Trail Gazers Project aims to transfer learning, technology and experience from the SPACEialNW project while at the same time working with interested parties in developing an online ‘Trail Gazers Application’.

This application will allow visitors to take a virtual tour of different walking and recreational trails throughout the regions. It will allow potential visitors to see in advance the natural and build environment along each trail, the tourist and visitor attractions, restaurants, pubs, shops, businesses etc.

The project seeks to action data capture and comparability across different jurisdictions, work with interested partner countries to identify the existing, planned and potential recreational walking routes across the region and explore with interested partner countries the best approach to using technology as a promotional tool.

The project seeks to work in partnership with tourism providers in interested partner countries to identify approved accommodation and attractions within close proximity to a route.

To enhance the visitors (walkers, cyclists and outdoor pursuits) experience of everything Donegal recreational routes has to offer, while at the same time promoting and developing the counties natural and cultural heritage to a world wide audience.

The project is being developed with the Interreg VB Atlantic Area programme which is due to open in late 2015. For further information contact Ms. Roisin Mc Bride EU unit [roisinm@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:roisinm@donegalcoco.ie)

## Tides of Time Project Update

Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism Ltd, Ireland are currently developing their ‘Tides of Time’ project which is at scoping and development stage. The aims of the project are:

- Revitalisation of Coastal communities by providing a new means of stimulating economic and social improvement and job creation through tourism and education.
- Promote transnational co-operation and create a co-operative network of partners building relationships and understanding of maritime historic events in each region.
- Research, identify, restore and conserve sites of maritime heritage, archaeological and historical significance with articular reference to maritime conflicts through

the years. This is of particular significance as the Great War Centenary takes place between 2014 – 2018.

- Develop a maritime heritage trail linking heritage sites, underwater attractions and coastal sites with historical and archaeological value and deploy a marketing campaign and reduce tourism seasonality by providing a wide range of activities.

It is hoped that the projects outputs will range from; Maritime History & Conflict Trails, Island Heritage, WW 1, WW2, Spanish Armada & other events, Conservation of Historic Maritime Sites, Marketing, Promotion, Signage, Activities – boat tours, wreck diving etc, Community Ambassadors – Training. For more information contact: EU unit : 074 9153900



## SHOWCASING OUR WILD ATLANTIC WAY MARINE AND COASTAL TOURISM OFFERING AT THE FEDETON ASSEMBLY MEETING IN DUNKIRK, FRANCE

Donegal County Council and Donegal Tourism Ltd representative Joy Harron recently presented County Donegal's Marine and Coastal Tourism strategy to a large gathering of European delegates in Dunkirk including representatives from the EU Commission. Joy attended the Workshop based themed around the 'contribution of maritime heritage in the life of European nautical tourism destinations'. The presentation on County Donegal was very well received and various Donegal County Council EU projects were discussed such as the Sail West, MalinWaters project. The new MalinWaters YouTube video was shown to the European Delegates and it received a very positive response.

The event took place over two days in Dunkirk, France on 24th and 25th June 2015 as part of the calendar of events organised by the European Federation of Nautical Tourism Destinations (FEDETON) of which Donegal County Council is the only current member in Ireland. On the final day of the workshop, the President of FEDETON announced that the next European Assembly meeting would

take place in Donegal. The date has yet to be confirmed but it is likely to take place in February 2016. During the visit to Donegal European Delegates will tour our Wild Atlantic Way coastline and will have the opportunity to experience marine tourism activities and attractions in County Donegal. This is a very strong network of partners to take forward future EU projects that will benefit the County as a whole.

During the event another European project called CurioSeaty was launched. This project is focused on maritime

history along European coasts with a view to developing a touring route incorporating maritime activities. This was an excellent opportunity to meet potential new partners and to discuss Donegal County Council future European project plans such as the upcoming Atlantic Area 'Tides of Time' project with representatives from leading tourism bodies, SME's and local authority organisations from across Europe. For more information on FEDETON visit: <http://www.nautical-tourism.eu>



During August 2015 Enterprise Ireland released a call for expression of ideas for regional initiatives. The aim of this call is to assist in identifying potential areas of enterprise and sectoral opportunities in regions; and to stimulate a future pipeline of potential strategic, sectorally focused and regionally based projects.

It is intended that such projects will be:

- Industry-driven project/s that leverage identified regional strengths and sectoral opportunities.

- Collaborative in nature, involving key stakeholders (private-private / public-private) in a region or across more than one region. The collaboration may take the form of "clusters" and "enterprise hubs", a further deepening of SME-Higher Education Sector engagement in regions, and/or formal structures and teams to drive collaborative projects.
- Able to demonstrate clear benefits to the enterprise base and the region/s (for example, increased design-led innovation, enterprise capability, procurement and supply chain opportunities, start-up activity, etc).

Donegal County Council, Letterkenny Institute of technology and Bord lascaigh Mhara have formed a

stakeholder group that on a regular basis meet as a means of joining forces and working together to achieve a shared vision for the sectors and North-west region. On behalf of this stakeholder group Donegal County Council lodged an expression of ideas to Enterprise Ireland on 11<sup>th</sup> September, based on the detailed and focused work progressed to date on the development of a Marine Renewables Innovation centre. This collaboration seeks to address the need for a Marine innovation centre based on the three focus sectors of Tourism, Food product development and marine renewable energy and to serve the needs of the NW region.

For more information contact: EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9195300

# Project ASCENT

## Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools

The EU Unit of Donegal County Council is currently working with the Errigal Stakeholders Committee to identify funding opportunities for Errigal Mountain. The Committee's overall aim is to cater for the growing number of visitors to Errigal while minimising the environmental impact and creating opportunities for local communities. In response to the challenges being experienced on the site, and to negate environmental impacts, Donegal County Council, in partnership with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the local community and other stakeholders wish to undertake a project in partnership with other regions to develop sustainable environmental

management tools and techniques. This will be known as the ASCENT Project - *Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools.*

### ***Errigal Mountain Path Study***

In July 2015, the Committee commissioned a study, the Errigal Mountain Path Study, to secure expert advice on how to address the recreation-induced erosion at Errigal and how to best care for this iconic mountain into the future. The early findings of the study indicate that it is a long term project, which will require significant funding to develop a vision for conservation management and protection of Errigal.

The EU Unit intends to further explore the Northern Periphery & Arctic 2014-2020 Transnational Cooperation Programme as a fitting funding programme for the ASCENT Project as it has a strong priority focus on 'Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural and Natural Heritage' and specific objective 'Increased capacity of remote and sparsely populated communities for sustainable environmental management'. For further information please contact, Roisin McBride - [rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:rmcbride@donegalcoco.ie)

## EU Unit Presentation to the LADDER Training event

The Donegal County Council EU unit was invited to deliver a presentation to the LADDER event in Letterkenny on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The theme of the presentation was the added value of International collaboration. The EU unit provided delegates with an outline of previously funded EU projects across a range of sectors (marine leisure, tourism, culture, heritage, enterprise, green economy) and also outlined the range of EU networks which have been established and which are of benefit to Donegal County Council. The ALDA European Association for Local Democracy also presented at the event and opportunities for collaborative work with the EU Unit and Social Inclusion Units of Donegal County Council are being explored.



EUROPEAN  
PROGRAMME  
FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT



### URBACT III

Donegal County Councils EU unit are currently exploring the URBACT III programme and how it might be of benefit to the county. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one

another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies. Following the success of I & II, URBACT III (2014-2020) has been developed to continue to promote sustainable integrated urban development and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.

URBACT III programme will be organised around four main objectives:

1. **Capacity for Policy Delivery**
2. **Policy Design**
3. **Policy Implementation**
4. **Building and Sharing Knowledge**

Projects will develop three types of interventions:

1. **Transnational exchange**
  2. **Capacity-building,**
  3. **Capitalisation & dissemination.**
- The National contact point based in NUI Maynooth has accepted an invitation to deliver a programme workshop in November 2015 to Donegal County Council and a wider group of locally interested parties. At present keen interest has been expressed from Inishowen Development Partnership with a possible collaborative project with Donegal County Council. For Further information contact: EU unit Donegal County Council Te.: 074 9153900



## Conference for the Atlantic Arc Cities 11th September



The Conference of the Atlantic Arc Cities hosted the event. The theme of the conference was *the Atlantic dimension: a development opportunity*. Donegal County Council was invited to participate in the event and to undertake an elevator pitch with the aim of securing project partners for transnational funded projects.

Donegal County Council presented an overview of key marine tourism projects and strategy to date, and in conjunction with Donegal Tourism Ltd. outlined some of the key topics which are being developed for submission to the opening call of the Interreg VB Atlantic Area Programme. The EU unit will be working with partners on key projects including Tides of Time (Maritime heritage), Trailgazers and coastal sustainability / protection. For further information contact: EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900

### EU Unit Submission to pre-consultation process for the preparation of Donegal County Council Killybegs Local Area Plan.

Donegal County Councils Development Planning Unit initiated pre-consultation on the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Killybegs. An invitation for submissions was extended to the public during August 2015 and closed on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The EU unit on behalf of a Killybegs working group consortia lodged a submission to address and identify areas for consideration during the plan preparation process. Such areas for consideration are based on the work undertaken to date on the development of the Northwest region for marine renewables, food product development and tourism innovation.

This three sector focus is the subject of this submission and is based on the work of a stakeholders consortium led by Donegal County Council, and which includes a range of relevant partners, including Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

Work has been ongoing for a number of years on the development of an Innovation centre based in Killybegs with a particular emphasis on the marine economy in Killybegs and the 3 sector focus of activity. The aim of the project is to capitalise on the very rich marine resources available to Donegal and the North West Region as a whole.

It is also intended through this initiative to capitalise on the physical and human infrastructure and valuable resource that exists across a range of sectors and business activities in the Killybegs Marine Hub. A further submission will be made during the statutory public consultation period to inform the Development Planning section of the progressive work of the working group. For Further Information contact: EU unit Donegal County Council Tel.: 074 9153900

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

### Regions, EU Institutions and Policy-Making – Online Course

EU regions and cities matter in policy-making. Their role and impact is, however, not well known and often underestimated in public debate. EU unit staff are taking part in an online course or MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on EU regions, institutions and policy-making which aims to explain how the EU institutions function, how they work together and how this impacts policies and activities at the regional and local level. The course contributes to the capacity-building of regional and local authorities and is organised by the European Committee of the Regions - the EU's assembly of regional and local representatives. More than 50 politicians and experts from other EU institutions, agencies, European associations and academic institutions will contribute to its production. This course is for everybody interested in the EU and its regional affairs, particularly for officials of regional and local administrations involved in EU affairs. During the eight-week course participants will focus on one specific theme each week and have the opportunity to evaluate their learning progress through a weekly quiz. Content will be delivered in the form of educational videos, live web debates with experts, infographics, factsheets, and participants will be invited to interact via social media.

For further information contact: EU Unit Donegal County Council, 074 9153900.

# Heritage Streets Alive 2015

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council



Heritage Streets Alive 2015 was launched in June 2015 and is a cross-border cross-community regeneration project. The aim of the project was to invite local people from three historic streets in Donegal and Derry to showcase the strengths of their streets and to co-create a better future for them. The project was funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland, and co-partners Church Lane Campaign Group, Holywell Trust, Peace Walls Project, International Fund for Ireland, Derry City and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council. The Project involved the streets of Church Lane in Letterkenny as well as Fountain Street and Chamberlain Street in Derry.

The participants visited each of their streets and at later workshops shared great stories of the things that make them special and unique – past and present. The project went from an inquiry into these street's many strengths and leapt forward into a better future with a workshop to co-create visions for each of the three historic streets. Creating three street visions was a key milestone in this project and the main finale seen

each of the streets come alive on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August as part of National Heritage Week 2015 when each street hosted a special day of culture and showed each of the 3 streets 2020 vision in a fun and creative way.

The project was the vision of Mary Kerrigan who is the project leader and a Built Environment Educator and Creative Visionary. Participants and co-funders/delivery partners are extremely positive about the

emerging benefits of the project, especially in its capacity building and groundbreaking community engagement which showcased the enthusiasm, commitment and support for the project from all involved. The opportunity to up-scale this project over a longer period of time is something that is being explored.



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